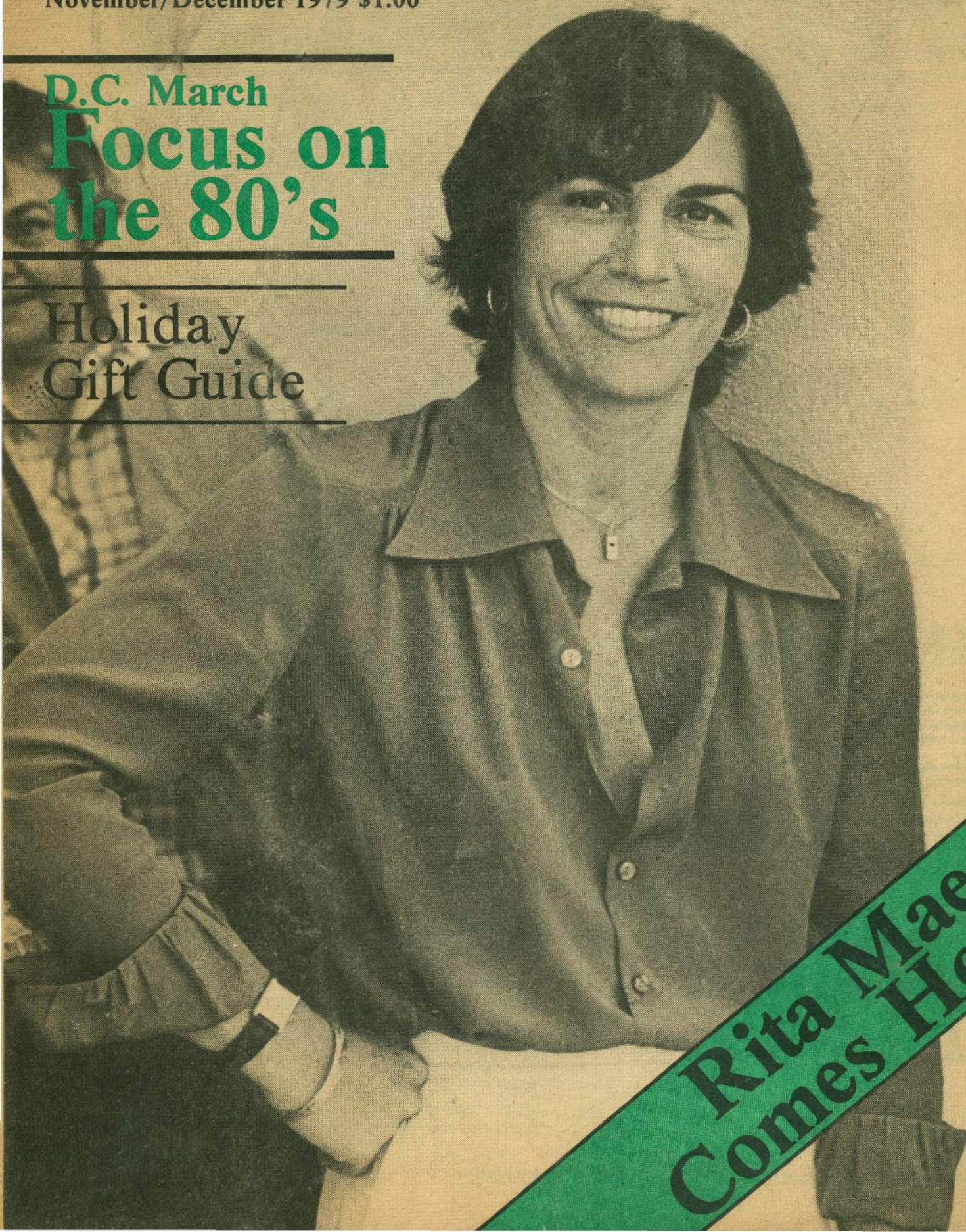


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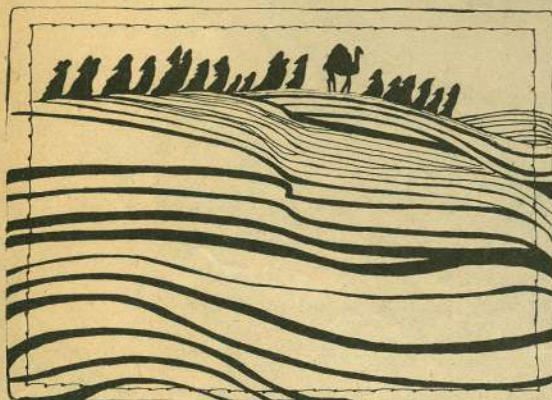
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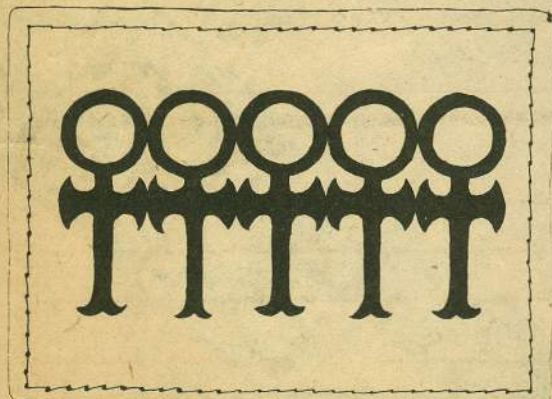
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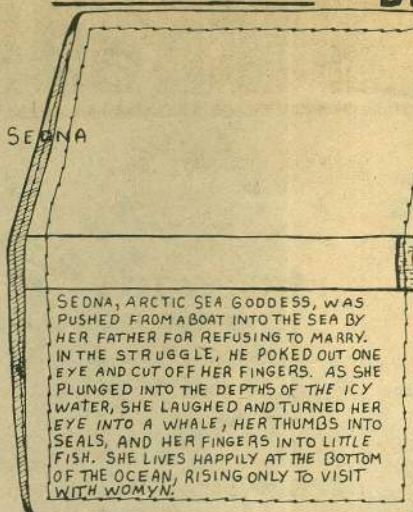
BASILIA



VASHTI



"THE GIRLS"



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WHEN VASHTI, QUEEN OF PERSIA, WAS DANISHED BY THE KING INTO THE DESERT OTHER WOMYN JOINED HER RATHER THAN BE SUBJECT TO PATRIARCHAL LAW. THIS CAME TO BE THE DESERT TRIBE OF VASHTI, A BAND OF WOMYN WHO LIVED BY THEIR WITS AND LIVED WELL FOR THEY WERE WISE. THEY TRAVELED WITH ONLY ONE CAMEL TO CARRY THEIR POSSESSIONS FOR BEING OF GREAT WISDOM THEY NEEDED FEW THINGS. THEY SANG AND LAUGHED WITH THE DESERT WINDS.

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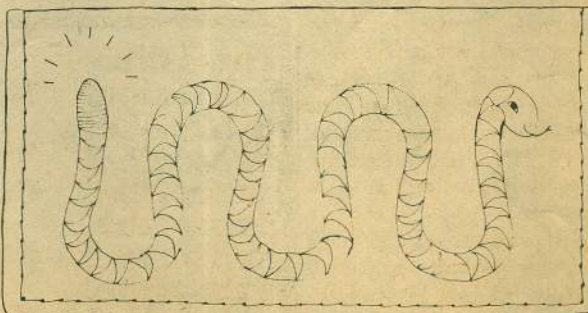
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Cover Photo by Beth Thielen. Design by Susan Rowe. Rita Mae finishes screenwriting in Hollywood and returns home to Virginia to write fourth novel.

The Lesbian Tide is a radical feminist news magazine published six times a year by **TIDE PUBLICATIONS**. The staff is open to women who wish to become involved in journalism or who see media as a vehicle for activism.

EDITORIAL POLICY

In the interest of fostering open communication, **The Lesbian Tide** prints a variety of views from the lesbian, feminist, and gay communities. Our editorial perspective also includes coverage of other social change issues as they relate to women and gays. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of Tide Publications nor The Editorial Board unless bylined as such.

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The Many Faces of Rita Mae Brown

By Paula Facine and Sharon McDonald

"I want to thank y'all for buying my books and helping me out of poverty, 'cause if it weren't for you I'd be slinging hash in some diner—'cause heaven knows I ain't butch enough to pump gas!"

And those were just her opening remarks. Known as much for her lively commentaries as for her books (*Rubyfruit Jungle*, *Songs to a Handsome Woman*, *The Hand That Cradles the Rock*, *Plain Brown Rapper*, *Six of One, In Her Day*), Rita Mae Brown was speaking at a Gay Academic Union benefit in Los Angeles last June. Between signing copies of her books and exhorting the guests to give to

the GAU's scholarship fund, Rita Mae spoke to *The Lesbian Tide* about her past, present, and future.

LT: When is *Rubyfruit Jungle* going to become a movie?

RMB: The movie industry is basically a business made up of cowards. They're really afraid to touch the issue, so the money is going to have to come independently. We've been to all the major studios. If the producers don't raise the money the rights revert back to me on August 24, 1980. And then I'll get the money. I've never been one to be terribly put off by anything being difficult, so I'm

not real worried about it. Maybe I should be.

LT: Who will direct the film?

RMB: There are just zip woman directors in Hollywood, there's Joan Tewkesbury and Joan Rivers, and Jane Wagner who probably will not direct again for many years because of what happened with *Moment to Moment*. I said, 'Nobody gets the job unless it's a woman.' Susan Smitman, who is not a name in Hollywood but has worked in New York for years doing commercials, will be the director.

LT: We've heard that you are moving back to the South. Why?

RMB: It's home. I work best there. I came to Hollywood (in 1978) to see if I could write some screenplays. Well, I wrote the screenplays and I figure if anybody wants me now they can call me. A screenplay is writing by committee, and the only great book ever done by committee was the Saint James Version. I don't want to be in this environment too long.

I'm always happier south of the Mason-Dixon line. I understand the rules, they understand me. I would rather have somebody come right up to my face and say, 'You are terrible and I hate you, I'll never speak to you.' L.A. is just full of people who can be just as sweet to you as they can be and the first chance they get to cut your ovaries out they will.

Hollywood's Closets

LT: You said in a recent interview that you're involved in a relationship with an actress whose TV show was just canceled. Will she be moving with you?

RMB: Well, yeah, I think she'll commute!

LT: Can we ask who she is?

RMB: You can, but I won't tell you. Because that's her job, do you know what I mean?

LT: You are a very public lesbian. How do you deal with your lover having to be in the closet because of her job, does this hurt you?

RMB: I feel sorrowful, yes. I know that no matter what she does she still loves me, but it hurts me to see all of her friends who live in terror, particularly the women, much more than the gay men. Here in Hollywood are these incredible people who are so afraid that they can't even come together for a secret meeting to give emotional support. It's brutal, but that's how terror-stricken they are. And it's one thing for us to say we all must come out, which I do believe, but tell somebody who makes \$500,000 a movie to kiss off the \$500,000. Because if she comes out she's not gonna work for five or ten years, and once she's over 40 for an actress that's like being a grease spot in the road. This town is vicious to women. She's a relatively brave individual, but on the other hand, she's worked for years to get these skills and she has no skills to replace them. She's not gonna be a clerk in Woolworth's, what's she gonna do?

I think eventually somebody is going to take the risk. That woman will pay



"The straight press considers me a dyke, and they're often very unkind about that. Then the gay community will say I'm not gay enough."

heavily, she'll be the sacrificial lamb, but slowly others will creep forward. I just hope we help that person instead of attacking her and saying, 'Oh well, she's so beautiful she probably has money socked away in Switzerland.'

The Next Novel

LT: Are any of your screenplays in production now?

RMB: The one I just finished will go into production pretty soon, it's called *Room to Move*, for Roger Corman.

LT: What are you working on now?

RMB: A novel called *250 Water Street*. It's about a black family and a white family, and they both work for the Louisville-Nashville Railroad in Montgomery, Alabama, and it's from 1898 to today.

LT: You said earlier that you planned to do a sequel to *Six Of One*.

RMB: I am, but I want to do this first. Emotionally, for some reason I have to do this one first.

LT: Who's going to publish *250 Water Street*?

RMB: Harper and Row, and Bantam, you know, they both do that hard and soft deal at the same time. If I get it in by June it ought to be out by fall 1980.

The Diana Press Suit

LT: Why are you suing Diana Press?

RMB: I want the rights to my books back.

I think they made some honest mistakes, like over-expanding. But you don't cheat your own people. If we allow that kind of behavior in our community I think we're saying it's o.k. if we rip one another off or if we're irresponsible. It's the old story, the level of morality in any group is what you allow.

We had all been beseeching them individually, Z Budapest, myself, Barbara Greer, the women for Jeannette Foster, and each of us got a different story. Each of us thought that we were being singled out, because they didn't like us, or in my case because maybe they thought, 'Well, that bitch has enough money.' We discovered by accident that this was happening to each of us. Everybody sent letters again saying, 'Would you please clarify the situation?' and got the usual no response. So I thought, I don't mind being the ugly in this, after three years of getting no response I'm gonna sue their ass into next week.

LT: Some people think it's going to put them out of business.

RMB: It's not my responsibility if they stay in business or not, it's my responsibility that they pay their writers. If they aren't going to do that, what difference does it make if they stay in business or not? What do we work for, what do we write for, why did we go to a feminist press to begin with? It's casting a pall over all the other small presses. Young women writers tell me, 'We don't want to have anything to do with small presses because we know they don't pay.' So a lot of good women's presses are being the fall girls for somebody's being irresponsible.



Bettye Lane

"For years I was an organizer, and fool as I was, I would stand up in a room and say what I thought, who I liked and who I didn't like. And you can't do that."

You gotta remember that I love this movement, I grew up in this movement. I came into it when I was 20 years old and I'm now 34, it has been literally half of my life. I obviously want it to be perfect and do right and win. I now have enough sense to know we're imperfect, we will sometimes do wrong, but I still think we can win.

Revenues and Reviews

LT: Which of your books have sold best?

RMB: Well, *Rubyfruit*, because it's been out longer. But *Six of One* is doing real well, although we got slowed down by that *New York Times* strike. It would have died right on the spot if I hadn't had a set readership who went out and bought the book without a *New York Times* review. I was one of the few authors to survive that, because you all knew me. So I know who keeps me alive. I have real humility when it comes to that, because if it weren't for you all I'd be back in the South picking cotton or some other wonderful job.

LT: Why do you think *In Her Day* was not a success?

RMB: I took a chance on *In Her Day* and paid heavily for it. It was too obviously political, I should have made it more dramatic. I think politics is drama, but Americans don't have a tradition of political novels. *In Her Day* does much better in Germany and France where there's a tradition of the political novel. Americans will not read arguments, and Ilse and Carol argue constantly about politics. So I just cut my eyeteeth on it and found out in a big way that if you want to be political you have to be more subtle.

LT: How do you feel about the fact that a lot of the feminist and gay press gave *Six of One* a bad review?

RMB: Well, they're entitled to their opinion. I think there's an impulse to want people to stay the same. There are a lot of people who want me to write *Daughter of Rubyfruit Jungle* the rest of my life. And I can't do that if I'm going to be true to myself, and in a deeper sense if I'm going

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to be true to them. Most of the main characters in the book I'm doing now are men, some people will say that's terrible. I don't think it's terrible because I want to show how their lives have been destroyed by this system. I think my concerns are how do people survive a culture that is not set up for their benefit?

The straight press considers me a dyke, and they're often very unkind about that. Then the gay community will say I'm not gay enough. But that's alright. Nobody should do anything public unless they're willing to get kicked in the ass. People have a perfect right to disagree with anything I do. I also have a perfect right to do anything I want to. All I care about is telling the truth as I see it, knowing that I only see a tiny little portion of it. But what I see I'm gonna tell with a vengeance!

LT: How do you feel about being the Jackie O of the lesbian movement?

RMB: Gosh, I don't know how to take that! Jackie O had real pussy power if you think about it, marrying all those rich men. I suspect that what you mean is a kind of glamour. I feel great about it, I am so tired of seeing lesbians miserable, women hiding their light under a bushel basket, that I will gladly be whatever they want to call me. To look at a woman who's happy with herself, and she's healthy, and she's taken some care with her appearance, which to me is a form of health, that just makes me high as a kite.

LT: Now that you're writing screenplays and novels, are you also still writing poetry, essays, or political analysis?

RMB: Yes, I'm sticking it in a drawer until I can put it in a book. It seems the older I get the more practical I get, so I'll see what happens with it. I discovered through the movement that the only way you can tell the truth is to write fiction.

LT: Why do you say that?

RMB: For years I was an organizer, and fool as I was, I would stand up in a room and say what I thought, who I liked and who I didn't like. And you can't do that. Maybe that's the way you do things down home, but not when you're dealing with

I turned to fiction out of desperation.

nice white middle class people. I was in one fight after another, because I was so untactful by their standards and they were so hypocritical by my standards. We just couldn't bridge that cultural gap. I turned to fiction out of desperation.

I'm glad I did though, because I'm happier doing that than standing up in a meeting and saying, 'I think we should all pool our money for this project,' and everybody just looking at me and saying, 'Ah, take her away. . .'

LT: Do you consider yourself a star or a leader in the women's community?

RMB: A star is someone who has been selected by the male media, not by us.

And I've only been half heartedly accepted by the male media. The publishing industry accepts me, but TV doesn't. I have a tough time getting on television. I'm kind of a half star or maybe I'm just a southern planet.

But I basically consider myself a leader without an organization, which is very frustrating. And I don't know how to build that organization. I spent 12 years trying and got nowhere. But I'll be at my typewriter no matter what.

In the meantime I'm content. Well, half content. I really do like politics. And I don't mind a good fight. People keep asking me if I'm going to go into politics and I don't know if it's flattery or if they really think I could do it.



Bette Lane

"Nobody should do anything public unless they're willing to get kicked in the ass."

LT: You were quoted in *Publisher's Weekly* as saying that you didn't want to be called a 'lesbian writer.' Why?

RMB: Whenever you go out and do interviews in the straight world, they try to find a way to pigeonhole you or diminish you. So I get to be called the lesbian writer, and Maya Angelou gets to be called the black writer, and James Baldwin gets to be called the black homosexual writer. The woman who wrote *The Warrior Woman* will be called the Chinese writer. But it's always to keep the public from realizing that we're the same people.

I'm a lesbian writer, I *am* a lesbian, I will never back down from that subject. But my anger is at the way in which the straight media utilizes us. They're really trying to tell the reader that this is a fragmented market. When they market books, the black books are pushed in what's perceived to be the black market. They say white people won't buy them. I say white people won't buy them because we don't know they exist. I refuse to be pushed away from people that way. Readers will know I'm a lesbian, all they have to do is pick up my books. ■



Happily Ever After?

By Jeanne Cordova

"The parties hereto acknowledge that they cohabitated for approximately nine years' time, commencing on or about August 1, 1969 and terminating on or about January 18, 1979, during which time they acquired considerable joint property and debts and during which time their separate property became intermixed."

Any lesbian who was once married to a man might recognize these words as the opening paragraph of a divorce settlement. But these particular words begin a Property Settlement Agreement between two lesbians.

Like most of us, when Jane Smith and Mary Jones fell in love in 1969, neither gave a thought to crass topics like property settlements. Even if they didn't "last forever" they would, of course, remain dear, close friends and never fight over the car, much less the table lamp.

But 1979 found Jane and Mary fighting over the car and the lamp, as well as several dozens of other pieces of property amounting to a total and confused net worth of \$110,000. While this might seem a paltry sum to a few, and a large amount to many, the example applies to all lesbians who enter into long term relationships that are not legally protected.

After months of squabbling, Jane finally found a lesbian lawyer in a local magazine and took her problems to her. Several simple sessions later both Mary and Jane emerged with a property settlement contract that both felt was in their best interest. Jane said, "I feel good because no one feels ripped off."

Their contract, which is legally binding in a court of law, includes a comprehensive itemization of all property, provisions for dividing debt as well, and includes escrow provisions for the house, and a release which prevents Master Charge from collecting against Mary, because Jane agreed to assume the debt on this once joint credit card.

The decision to take one's problems to a lawyer can be made by either or both parties. In this case, Jane contacted the lawyer who represented her. Mary, having met the lawyer and reading the agreement she helped to work out, decided she didn't need a lawyer. Both agree that the \$500 spent on the lawyer was well worth the months of endless aggravation and bad feelings they'd circumvented. Lawyer fees can range from as little as \$200 for a division of simple properties, to \$1,000 or more if the number and size of assets call for extensive work.

The important thing is that lesbians should recognize that consulting a lawyer for a "divorce settlement" is their legal option, not a heterosexual privilege. Secondly, that especially where children are involved, the relationship is long or both parties are in their 30s or 40s one must think about the future even at such a difficult emotional time.

According to Jane and Mary's lawyer, lesbians are becoming increasingly aware of the viability of a property settlement.

"I've heard people discussing it. Another lawyer friend of mine, as a matter of fact, drew one up for another lesbian couple. That one has complications now, because one of the women died shortly afterwards. Now that one may end up in court, because the woman's family wants some of the property. No will was left because it was disposed of in the Property Settlement. So we'll see how that goes."

She also stated that "especially post-Marvin" a settlement contract has a very good chance of being upheld.

Most of us can cite examples of our friends who left heterosexual marriages wherein "he got the car and she got the bedspread." As lesbians and self supporting women we cannot afford to perpetuate this heterosexism upon ourselves or the women we love. ■

(Next issue: Part II of "Happily Ever After?" looks at the implications of the Marvin decision for lesbian couples.)

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Sharon —McDonald



A Coward's Guide To Combat

For years now, therapists have been telling us it's healthy to fight in a loving relationship. Louise and I have taken this concept one step further and contend that it's even healthier to love in a fighting relationship. It's not that we don't like each other. It's just that, as I put it, "We have different priorities," or as she puts it, "You're full of shit."

Achieving this advanced level of communication was no easy matter, however. Cowering has always come more naturally to me than confrontation. There are exciting, dynamic people in this world who love a good fight; I am not one of them.

I had two basic techniques for avoiding combat. For petty, immediate problems I used the Internalization Technique, cleverly transforming my own dissent into my very own headache, backache, fatigue or depression. Battles of a larger scale called for more drastic action: Flight. Rather than fight, I have left rooms, jobs, relationships and entire states.

Louise, as usual, was my polar opposite. Trouble was her middle name. No problem was too small to be egged into a full scale war for an evening's entertainment.

Perhaps there is some goddess who understands just why we make changes in our lives at the exact times that we do. Whether it was sex or self-defense I'll never know, but I sensed shortly after meeting Louise that the time had come for me to stand up and fight like a woman. For those of us who pale at the sight of a downturned brow, fighting is a skill that must be *learned* late in life, slowly, and painfully. Paradoxically, this process requires of us cowards great courage.

Step One consisted solely of increasing my Volume. I ignored subject matter entirely and concentrated on moving from quivery-lipped speechlessness to bellowing from the diaphragm. During the year it took me to complete this transition, I learned that *any* sentence, no matter how witless, sounds much more convincing when delivered in a karate yell.

Step Two was Style. I examined the nuances of sarcasm, studied the effects of the self-pitying wail vs. the outraged howl (go for the howl every time), and brushed up on my righteous fury. It was during this period that I discovered the importance of visual aids. If monogamy is one of your issues, waving a recently discovered love letter to a third party can be devastating. (I believe it was right around then that we acquired a second bed and affectionately dubbed it "Siberia.")

By this time I felt that I was ready for Step Three: listening to Content. I was *shocked*. Did she really *believe* all those terrible things she was saying about me? It was discouraging, too, to hear how often the same issues (and third parties) kept recurring. Unfortunately, I have only learned one thing about Content: Some issues resolve themselves with time, others take trauma.

Speaking of trauma, I have compiled a valuable guide to important warning signs every neophyte fighter should learn.

You've Gone Too Far If:

1. You hear a sentence beginning with, "You always," "You never," or "Who was that woman. . ."
2. Your lover packs her suitcase as she talks.
3. Your lover packs *your* suitcase as she talks.
4. Your lover silently gauges the distance between a large, heavy object and your head.
5. Your lover does not attempt to conceal the flicker of interest in her eyes when you bluff, "I'm leaving you!"
6. Your lover leaves the room, house, or country.

My quest for fighting skills has successfully taken me from polite, well-controlled hypochondria to true freedom in healthy feminist hysteria. Louise is happier, having livelier evenings. I'm happier, having fewer backaches. What our life together lacks in peace of mind it makes up in decibels. Meanwhile we agree on 3 things: I love her, she loves me, and a fight lasting over two years is a commonlaw divorce. ■

Corrections last issue: The photo on page 16 was taken by Virginia Morgan, and first printed in *The Lesbian Community*. The letter to the editor by Karen "Sappha" Dalyea entitled "No Plastic Lady Lovers" contained the sentence, "... I'm every inch as butchy as Bert is (that is to say tough, but in the male-identified sense of the word)." This should have read, "but NOT in the male-identified sense of the word)." Our apologies. ■

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Holiday Gift Guide

'Tis the season for gifts! And our 2nd Annual Holiday Gift Guide is full of special women-made products that will make your holiday gift giving unique, diverse, economical, and supportive to the women's businesses that bring you *The Lesbian Tide*. So before you take your checkbook out to the local department store, review this array. Most of the items listed in this section and elsewhere in this issue can be ordered by mail.

For your holiday tree come to *The Lesbian Tide's* Christmas Tree Lot, 1 bl. north of Santa Monica Blvd. on San Vicente in West Hollywood.

CARDS

Whether it's lesbian, gay or feminist, full color photographs or black & white illustrations, Iris, Day Moon Designs, Jazz Notes, and Vita, present you with 4 different styles of greeting cards — all for women to woman communication.

BOOKS

From erotica to spirituality, sci-fi to biography: *Graphic Details* and *A Woman's Touch* offer short stories and photos of lesbians exploring our sensuality. Women painters and folk art are the subjects of Germaine Greer's and Djuna Barnes' new works. Merlin Stone uncovers more images of our past in *Ancient Mirrors of Womanhood*, and Jean Sirius offers *Womyn/Friends*, true poems about women. Feminist publisher Metis Press brings us five new novels: *Shedevils* (rare women in bizarre situations), *Wild Women Don't Get the Blues* (loving & working after the honeymoon's over), *The Rock & Me Immediately* and *The Secret Witch* (for kids and their adults), and *Hurtin' & Healin' & Talkin' It Over* (stories about communication). *Gaia's Guide*, the international lesbian resource directory, is always a timely gift.

And of course, for the best in self-renewing year round lesbian literature, why not a plain brown wrapper gift subscription to *Sinister Wisdom*, *Windhaven* (a new sci-fi quarterly), or *The Lesbian Tide*?

Most of these, and thousands of other titles are also available at the bookstores advertised here: Oscar Wilde (NYC), Womansplace (Phoenix), Woman to Woman (Denver), Magic Speller (Newport Beach), Sojourner (Long Beach), Page One (Pasadena) and Sisterhood (West L.A.).

MUSIC

Four new albums by lesbian musicians are available here. From Galaxia comes Maxine Feldman's first — *Closet Sale*, and *More Than Friends*, by Robin Flower. Izquierda's powerful music is heard on *Quiet Thunder*, and Lima Bean Records has just released Willie Tyson's latest.

JEWELRY & GIFT WARE

Custom feminist jewelry in gold or silver from The Plebian (San Diego), Full Partnership (Falls Church, VA), The Feminist Forge (Willets, CA), or Womanworks (L.A.) is an attractive special gift. And Feminist Horizons and Womanyes, both in L.A., offer a wide selection of jewelry and ceramics also. Uniquely designed leather wallets can be mail ordered from Correct Line Leather and hand crafted batik items (clothing, kitchen accessories, decorator pillows, wall hangings, etc.) can be found at The Apple Room in L.A.

PHOTOS & POSTERS

For decorating with a feminist touch consider the fine posters of: Day Moon Designs, or Sinister Wisdom or Women Rising (a wonderful way to share warmth with a friend), works advertised here. Dry mounted photo wall hangings of contemporary women by Cynthia MacAdams (back cover) are also fine art gifts.

T-SHIRTS, BUTTONS & MISC.

T-shirts and tote bags with a wide range of slogans for everyday wear are available from Historical Products, Feminist Horizons, and Womanyes. And beautiful buttons (A You're An Amazon, I Like Older Women, and many more) can be ordered from White Mare. You might also begin the new year with a Luna Calendar, and visit the Feminist Wicca for other matriarchal supplies. While you're in the spirit, treat your auto to a gift, and yourself to a headache-free 1980, with a check up at Labyris Auto (S.F.) or The Women's Garage (L.A.).

TRAVEL

If you are considering an early 1980 vacation be sure to see our travel page and check into: Willow, a woman's retreat, Hotel York in San Francisco, Acapulco or Waikiki with travel agent Sandra Oberon, or ask Ms. Tours to make your arrangements for you. And lastly, if you have a major purchase in mind for the near future, do it with lesbian realtors Bonnie & Barbara in Big Bear Lake, or Gayle Wilson & Associates. ■

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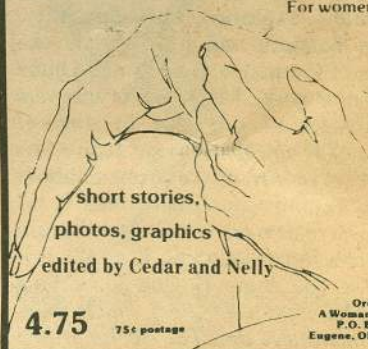
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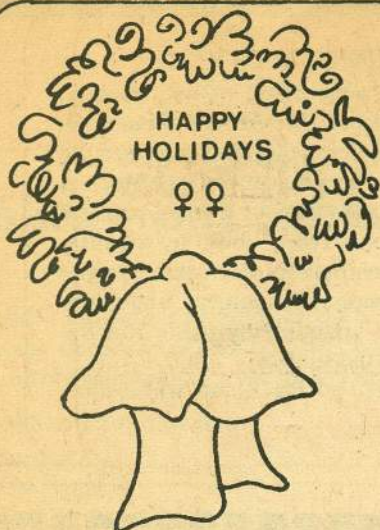
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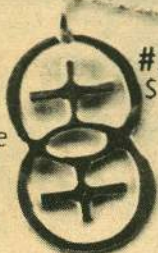
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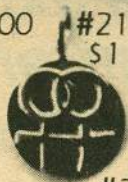


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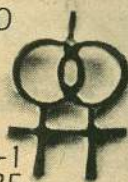
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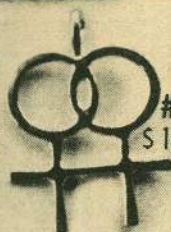
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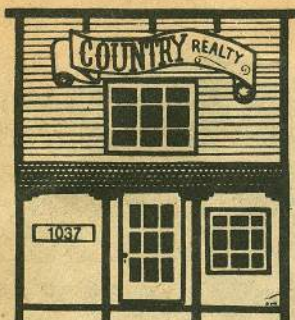
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"...We are not going to ask anymore, we are demanding. Listen, America. You are going to have to deal with us in the 80s."

(Speech given at the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, Oct. 14, 1979, by Arlie Scott, Action Vice President of the National Organization for Women.)



Debra Levie

LARGEST LESBIAN CROWD EVER!

By Lynne D. Shapiro

Imagine! Marching in front of the White House chanting "3-4-7-9, lesbians are mighty fine." Standing in a field crowded with tens of thousands, declaring "We are everywhere!" Singing, "Here Come The Lesbians" with Meg Christian and 30-40,000 other lesbians in front of the Washington Monument!

Lesbians showed up from every state in the union. The average woman was about 24 and wore a DYKE button, but all ages and styles, from waspy Northeast college grads in tweed blazers, to older southern black women in church dresses, were represented. Proportionately, lesbians numbered about 40% of the marchers, a higher percentage than at any Christopher Street march to date. Few tensions between men and women were evident, as most commented on the feeling of community and even family.

The march was serious but uneventful. It started on time behind the Capitol, and proceeded past the National Gallery of Art, the FBI, and IRS, and the White House to the mall behind the Washington Monument. The sidewalks were nearly empty, and it didn't look like anyone from the White House was watching, so our chants fell mostly on grey statues and the bored looking police.

The rally however came alive. "It's the greatest experience of my life!" said Lesbian Feminist Liberation spokeswoman Betty Santoro in her keynote address. "... We are telling our gay sisters and brothers who still might feel isolated that they need not feel alone anymore."

Members of the Third World reminded us of the oppression they face, as did Sky Rose of Lesbian/Gay Youth who called our attention to how very few young people were at this march, compared to other political marches. We also had our consciousnesses raised about the plight of the hearing impaired as we practiced signing with Ed Cruickshank of Empire Rainbow Alliance for the Deaf.

However, not one woman spoke about the oppression lesbians experience as women, which was surprising since so many lesbians couldn't afford to come.

Speakers like Arlie Scott (see above) and Eleanor Smeal, Vice President and President of NOW, emphasized how silence oppresses us.

Jane Fonda and Tom Hayden sent telegrams confirming their "total support (for) the struggle which affects a huge proportion of the population," and Joan Baez's words urged "keep the spirit of love alive."

As I left and walked across the National Mall to the Capitol, I heard Kate Millett calling, "I love you, I love you." I imagined that her voice was coming from the gold dome and was the voice of my government.

NEXT STOP — the U.N. Staff Report

UPI and AP reported that 50-75,000 marched. March organizer, Steve Ault, synthesized how far lesbians and gay men have come and where our movement is going. "For many years it was necessary to separate ourselves and look within. In the last ten years we have learned to like ourselves and there is no greater achievement. But now we must reach out and gain the support of progressive movements in this country. . ."

Representatives of our parents, Adelle Star (Parents & Friends of Gays, Los Angeles) and Richard Ashworth (New York) made a pledge to their daughters and sons. "We will see that our lesbian and gay children remain unmaimed and unmarked. We call upon the silent millions of parents of gays to join us. The problem is silence and the answer is speaking out. The world must realize that we are proud of and support our children."

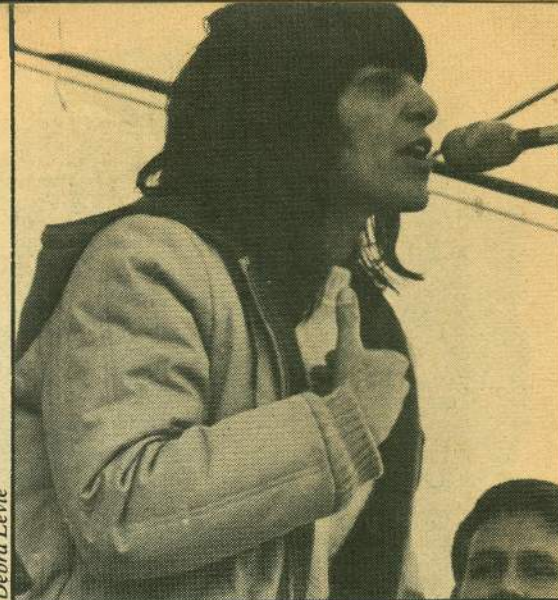
A representative of Washington, D.C. Mayor Marion Barry read a proclamation declaring the nation's first "Gay & Lesbian Awareness Week", Oct. 10-17, 1979.

Lesbian theoretician Charlotte Bunch prophesized growth. "We will quadruple our numbers in the streets and in the offices. We will have open leadership in the feminist and anti-nuke and civil rights movements. We have been there for years and now we must be open."

And she put the event into an international framework; "We must make our struggle international. Our next arena is the United Nations. We will be visible in the summer of 1980 in Copenhagen." Contingents from France, Holland, Belgium, England, New Zealand and Mexico were also marching in D.C.

Media Coverage Poor

Thousands of people in two dozen major cities were able to hear two hours of live rally coverage via Pacifica Radio's



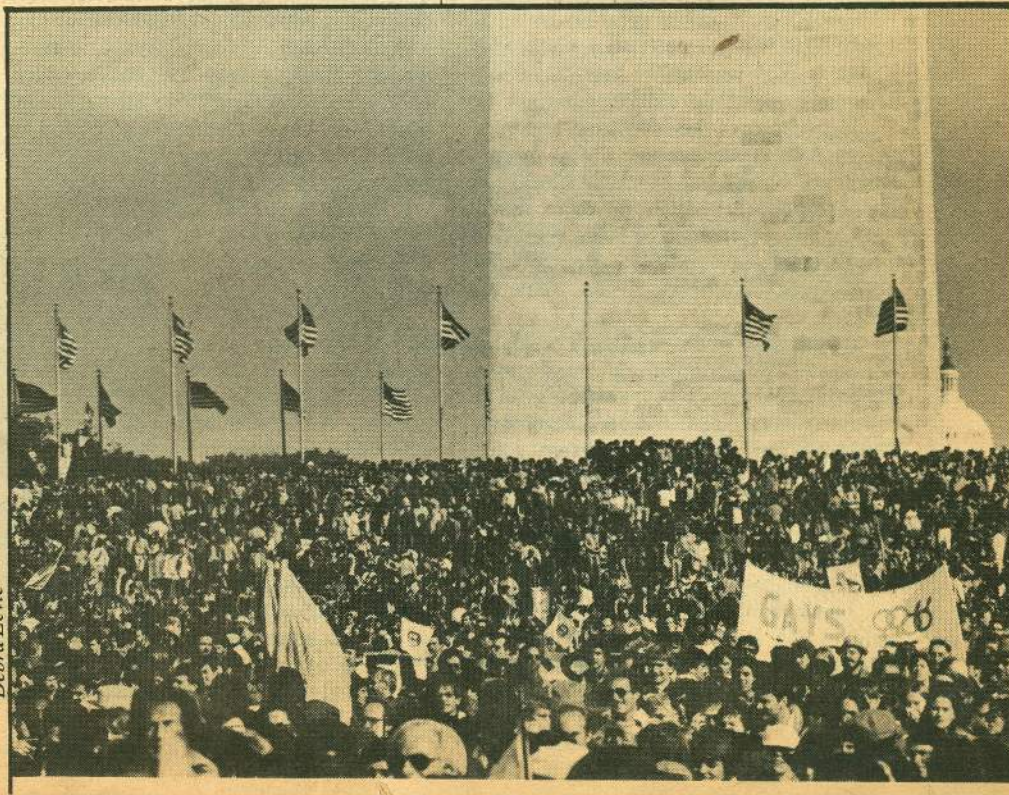
New York's Betty Santoro keynotes.

hookup with National Public Radio.

However, coverage of the event by major media was dismal. There was no pre-march publicity on television and no mention whatsoever of the 3rd World Gay Conference.

In Los Angeles, CBS, NBC, and ABC did show film clips the evening of the march. The reports were only seconds long but focused on the civil rights aspect of the event. Camera shots were of ordinary men and women, rather than cross dressers. The *Los Angeles* and *New York Times* carried short stories buried in back pages the next day. The *Washington Post* reported 25,000 marched. Gay media reported 100,000.

It seems if one wants to be registered as a legitimate social force in America, one must sign the Washington, D.C. guest book with a long march. Our movement has now done so. And in so doing has come of age. As we continue our work into another decade, we can look back and be strengthened realizing perhaps all things are *indeed* possible. ■





Arlie Scott

NOW Convention Out of the Revolution Into the Mainstream

By Kerry Lobel & Jeanne Cordova

The setting was as complex and as overpowering as the politics which took place. When the largest feminist organization in the women's movement brings its annual convention to a luxury, 30-story, glass belted tubular hotel with \$50 menu items, you know the Women's Movement has gone establishment.

Indeed, out-of-the-revolution-and-into-the-mainstream was the story of the weekend. What happened at the 12th Annual NOW Convention is in many respects what is happening to the Women's Movement. NOW moved to the right, and abbreviated feminism in the name of efficiency.

Inspired by its charismatic President, Eleanor (Ellie) Smeal, the delegates accomplished this feat by: sweeping out of office its only open lesbian incumbent, denying office to the only woman of color running, and refusing re-election to a politically radical officer. The new leadership of the National Organization for Women is, perhaps appropriately, five white straight women.

Throughout the Oct. 4-6 Convention held at the Bonaventure Hotel in Los Angeles, it was clear that the 860 delegates and the 2,000 related Convention-goers

were focused solely on the elections race.

President Ellie Smeal and Executive Vice President Judy Goldsmith ran uncontested for second terms, so the heat of battle centered on the offices of Action Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. With no campaigning of her own to do, Smeal formed a ticket of five, and campaigned hard for them. Her cadre, which was alternately called "The Team", "The Slate", or "The Machine", consisted of Smeal, Goldsmith, Jane Wells-Schooley, Sandra Roth, and Alice Chapman.

Testifying to the hard won strength of NOW's Lesbian Caucus, all of the candidates lined up to speak to NOW's largest special interest group.

Incumbent treasurer, Eve Norman, stressed her political record, detailing her participation in the 1971 drafting of NOW's first lesbian resolution. Her opponent, Alice Chapman, stressed her professional accounting background.

Incumbent Secretary, Sandra Roth, championed her record in office, while Sharon Parker, a woman of color from Washington, D.C., who later opened her delegate address in Spanish, also spoke on her political merit.

On the strength of their own merits, Arlie Scott, incumbent Action-Vice President, and Jane Wells-Schooley, the

slate backed candidate, were well matched, sophisticated speakers, each with a history of outstanding accomplishment in her own field.

Speaking before the delegate body, Schooley said, "Now is the time for bold action and new leadership, we are at a crisis of inaction! NOW must have a national campaign of the size and scope of the ERA campaign on the issues of reproductive rights and lesbian rights. We must dramatically increase minority participation in leadership."

In addressing the delegates, Scott detailed her position, noting that a "platform is something you stand on, not something you run on." Scott stressed the crucial need for NOW to participate in the 1980 elections as an independent feminist force, rather than as an adjunct to the Democratic Party. Saying, "We will never return to our closets or coat hangers," she stressed the need for unity and commitment to action on abortion and lesbian rights.

To uninformed delegates, the Action VP candidates differed little. A vocal minority loudly applauded every other line of both candidates, but the large majority of voters remained undecided.

All The President's Women

As Ellie Smeal took the podium, it became clear that the President herself, not Schooley, was Scott's opposition. Departing with a decade's tradition, the President came out publically and strongly for a slate for the first time in NOW history. Explaining her reasons, an impassioned Smeal told the delegates, "This (backing a slate) is the most difficult thing I've done for NOW. . . the challenge that lies before us is so difficult that we must have as our leadership the strongest possible leaders. . . this group of officers is strongest and I seek actively for their election. My duty is to tell you how I feel."

In the hour that followed, Smeal faced tough questions as the membership struggled to understand what was happening. "Your slate is tantamount to a cabinet, do you think we should change the by-laws?" "How is your slate exemplary of NOW's Affirmative Action commitment?" "If there is so much friction between you and the incumbents, how has NOW been able to come so far in the last two years?"

In what many perceived as a stunning abandonment of NOW's principles of Affirmative Action, Smeal defended her slate saying, "I believe we must go for qualifications. For too long we've had token representation in this organization." She noted that the members of the slate initially began as independents, and said, "I did not go out to find people of all combinations of the human race."

In the name of running a "clean" campaign, Smeal refused to be explicit about the "friction in the home office" that her slate was designed to cure. Questioned by delegates as to the truth of a rumor that she wanted a change in the bylaws which restricted a president to two

terms, Smeal dodged, "I'm running for office now."

The controversial and telling session ended as one delegate addressed Smeal. "I am agonized and distressed trying to decide what to do. I need to know, can you work with whoever is elected?" Smeal concluded, "If that happens, a tough job will be tougher. . . and I will find that I am out of touch with the membership."

The delegates had been issued a challenge and they knew it. The polls opened a half hour later, and when they closed that evening it was clear that, whether out of admiration, fear, gratitude or acquiescence, the membership of NOW had given their president what she wanted. The slate was in by almost a two thirds margin.

What Price Victory?

The election tension seemed to break at last on Sunday afternoon as Arlie Scott joined Smeal on stage to make a final "thank you" speech.

A hush fell over the delegate body as retiring V.P. Arlie Scott took the podium Sunday afternoon. "You are the most courageous women I have ever worked with, and I want to thank you for the last ten years of support," Scott said. "I thank NOW for changing my life and making it meaningful." As Smeal crossed the stage and hugged Scott, the show of unity was greeted with a standing ovation and collective sigh of relief.

However, observers questioned whether the wounds to NOW could be healed by a speech which Charlotte Bunch, a Scott campaign committee head, called, "A display of loyalty to feminism, not necessarily to NOW."

The 12th Annual NOW Conference concluded anti-climatically with the writing of some 129 resolutions. Only a small number of these were heard by the delegates, but the body did pass a Lesbian & Gay Rights Resolution which called for the hiring of a full time staff person to work on lesbian issues, the promotion of a national campaign for lesbian rights, and the expenditure next year of \$25,000 on

gay issues.

Single Issued Future?

Late Sunday afternoon, a group of lesbian and straight feminists who called themselves "Appalled Women" (AW) met and discussed their frustrations. Some said they would leave NOW, but others who wanted to remain discussed the formation of a Feminist Caucus, within NOW and the publication of a 'NOW Free Press'.

Lesbian leader Del Martin, who was the first chair of NOW's Lesbian Task Force, bluntly stated, "NOW is no longer a feminist organization." Referring to the campaign tactics of the Smeal slate, she charged, "NOW is trying to overpower its members rather than empower them. This is male type politics, an inability to struggle with disagreement."

Feminist historian and NOW member Marilyn Murphy warned, "To get the vote in 1920, the Suffrage Movement sold out the immigrant question and blacks. The women said, 'let us vote and we'll counter the vote of the foreign men and black men.' What's happening now is — give us the ERA at any price. NOW is becoming respectable and is paying the price of sisterhood."

Referring to Smeal's plea for qualifications as first priority, disenchanted AW member, Harriet Perl observed, "Mussolini did make the trains run on time. But I don't want efficiency, I want feminism."

Yet others disagreed. A California delegate commented, "I'm a feminist, Smeal's a feminist. All of us, feminists. Why must others label us playing male politics when we disagree?"

It is clear that the results of the 1979 NOW elections raise serious questions for the organization's future. There are no women of color and only two open lesbians in NOW's top 27 posts (Board and officers). All five officers are straight, three are from a single geographic region (Mid-Atlantic), with the top two coming from the same state. The top three officers

have a primary commitment to the ERA and their backgrounds are heavily weighted to that one issue.

Although newly elected officers dismiss criticisms that NOW is becoming a single issue organization, it is feared by many NOW delegates and observers that NOW's new leaders lack the expertise to deal with a wide range of issues. The "homogenized monolith", as one member described it, may experience serious difficulties in reaching out to women of color and in speaking credibly about affirmative action and the organization's commitment to a visible lesbian rights campaign.

Finally, the Smeal slate's campaign tactics may have taken their toll on committed NOW members. Allegations of improprieties regarding Eve Norman's job as Treasurer, and the secret playing of a tape of a Board meeting wherein Arlie Scott raised questions about supporting the March on Washington (at a time when major gay groups were themselves questioning the timeliness of the March), were seen as attempts to discredit Scott's and Norman's characters.

A week after the Convention feelings still ran high. Kay Whitlock, former Chair of NOW's National Lesbian Rights Committee called Smeal's victory "vicious and brutal." She summarized, "The new slate of officers reflects and represents no diversity of (NOW) membership. Those three courageous and capable persons who ran independent campaigns. . . deserve the thanks and gratitude of feminists who believe that diversity in our movement is a strength and who believe in a multi-issue feminist perspective."

In her address to the delegates, Smeal said, "Remember our determination this weekend, and remember equality for women and the goals of feminist philosophy. We will bring them home to America and to the world."

NOW has a long and hard road ahead. Observers wonder if Smeal, Goldsmith, Schooley, Roth and Chapman can, indeed, bring NOW members home. ■



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Coming Referenda

On June 3, 1980, Northern California will be the site of the first anti-gay referendum since November, 1978. Christians and Republicans of Santa Clara County and the city of San Jose have gathered enough signatures to force a referendum on the two gay rights ordinances passed there this summer.

Lining up against gays this time are individual members of the Republican County Central Committee who assisted in the petition drives, and fundamentalist churches. They are building their campaign on government intervention, saying no one has the right to tell employers who they can hire or fire. Meanwhile the Democratic party officials say they will support the gay cause "probably to a person", and Mike Nye of the Central Labor Council (AFL-CIO) says his union will circulate their anti-referendum position to the 100,000 workers they represent.

Although Santa Clara County defeated Prop. 6 (61-39%), and viewed the Briggs Initiative as vindictive, there is danger they might see this case as a matter of granting "special privileges."

Supporters may help the Ad Hoc Committee for Human Rights raise money to hire a campaign firm to win this battle by sending checks to: P.O. Box #26126, San Jose, CA 95159.

"Lewd Conduct" Dropped

In what is being termed "one of the most important cases to protect gay people in years," the California Supreme Court has struck down the state's criminal statute 647(a) which prohibited the soliciting of or engaging in "lewd or dissolute conduct." The court ruled that this law, which vice squad members use to arrest mostly gay men, is couched in terms such as "lustful, lascivious, unchaste, wanton or loose", and that such words are not legally defined.

Canadians Stopped at Border

The saga of the Public Health Service and the Immigration and Naturalization Service continues. Last month *The Lesbian Tide* reported that the PHS had refused to conduct further medical examinations of gays wishing entry into this country. Then the INS said that pending any definitive action from Congress, gay visitors would be placed on a "deferred visitor inspection status," meaning that gay visitors would not be subjected to a hearing or medical exam.

As we went to press last month, several hundred women were turned back from the Canadian-U.S. entry point at Point Huron, Michigan. The women, en route to the Michigan Women's Music Festival, were turned back or faced with a grueling series of questions about their sexuality, lifestyles — all asking explicit details.

Our Vote in 1980

Brown Courts Gays

By Jeanne Cordova

The 1980 Presidential elections offer the first opportunity for an economically valuable and politically tested national Lesbian and Gay Movement to make their voices heard. The National Convention Project of the Gay Rights National Lobby is already busy raising \$98,000 to impact the 1980 election. Their specific goal, "the adoption of a national platform plank committing the Democratic and Republican parties for the first time to defend the basic rights of American men and women who are gay."

One courtship has already begun as many Southern California lesbians and gays have stepped out for California's Jerry Brown. And the courtship is mutual.

On Oct. 12, Brown sent a personal telegram to The National Gay Task Force endorsing NGTF's Petition The President (to sign a pro-gay executive order) drive. Brown continued, "Let me further assure you of my support for passage of the legislation currently pending...prohibiting such discrimination, and of my strong commitment to work for the adoption of a plank to the 1980 Democratic National Platform urging passage of that (gay rights) legislation...Efforts to end such discrimination against gay and lesbian Americans will always have my strong support."

In the last three months, Brown has hired a gay consulting firm, appointed a gay judge to the Superior Court, and is (as we went to press) appointing a lesbian to his campaign staff.

Mixner/Scott, of Prop. 6 fame, is determined to show Brown gay clout, and Judge Steve Lachs' appointment is the first of its kind in the country. Lesbian activists being considered for "a top level administrative post" by Brown include: Betty Berzon, Terri DeCrezenzo, Myra Ridell, Diane Abbitt, Bobbi Bennett, and Ivy Bottini.

Bucks for Brown

In late September, a group of activists raised \$30,000 for Brown in one evening. The cocktail party held at the elegant Bel Air home of lawyer Sheldon Andelson (a location referred to as The Gay White House), was sponsored by MECLA (a gay campaign fundraising organization), realtor Gayle Wilson, and Myra Ridell (SCW). At the party, Brown asked the 200 guests present to help create a winning campaign for him.

Why Brown?

Most supporters agreed that the choice to support Brown was made easy by Carter's and Kennedy's candidacy. "Kennedy has been silent on the gay issue and is terrible on women's issues," explained activist lawyer Bobbi Bennett. "Carter is nowhere on gays and lukewarm, at best, on women's issues." Gayle Wilson says the favorable gay climate in California and the defeat of Prop. 6 are largely attributable to Jerry Brown. "Brown

BROWN FOR PRESIDENT



"Now if we could just get Linda Ronstadt to run for Vice President."

© 1979 TO. SYLVESTER

was the one who pushed Carter into coming out against Prop. 6. He has open gays on his staff when no one else would, and he has appointed exactly 1,000 women to posts during his administration."

Wilson also notes Brown's early and clear support for the ERA, and his clear position against nuclear energy.

Pro-Abortion Record

A former Jesuit seminarian, Brown privately told one lesbian supporter that he has personal problems with abortion. But his public statements and voting record are consistently pro-abortion rights. He has repeatedly tried to prevent the California legislature from cutting off funds for Medical funded abortions, and, in personally addressing the national NOW Conference, he said, "I fully support a woman's right to control her own body."

In addition to his record on the issues, supporters like Brown personally. Bennett explained, "He is the most creative politician since Roosevelt. He has a sort of spiritual ability to inspire and lead."

Bennett and others also believe that Brown, unlike Carter and Kennedy, is innately not homophobic. "I get the sense he'd

have gone much further on the gay issue if he could politically. It's easy to be pro-gay in California, but what's he supposed to say in Oklahoma?"

Supporters admit, "Jerry Brown is seen as a bit of a flake — the crazy Governor from California." But they believe others will be inspired when they hear Brown and see he is not owned by big business or anyone's machine.

Chips For The Future

Admitting Brown is a long shot, one supporter said the future might hold a Kennedy-Brown ticket. In any event, supporters believe that demonstrating economic and political muscle early is a good investment. Whether or not Brown gets the top job, he will still be the Governor of the largest state in the union. He will probably launch a senate bid after that, and it will take more than a defeat in 1980 to permanently close the White House doors to Jerry Brown.

In the meantime, California activists have scheduled trips across the country, to speak to lesbian and gay groups about who they believe is the "great gay hope" for 1980. ■

LILLIAN CARTER AT DINNER

Lillian Carter, the President's mother, and the first Carter to attend a gay function, said, "thanks for inviting me" to a well heeled crowd of 800 gathered at a \$150 per plate dinner at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel, October 25.

The occasion was a fundraiser for L.A.'s Gay Community Services Center, and a roast for GCSC Board member, Lawyer Sheldon Andelson. Over \$100,000 was raised.

Although the *L.A. Times* reported the next day that Ms. Carter didn't know she was attending a gay function, a dinner organizer clarified that after learning Gov. Jerry Brown was to speak, the White

House called and requested that Ms. Carter be added to the speaker's list. The White House request reportedly came through Assemblyperson Mike Roos, who is active in the California Carter Campaign and himself a Honorary Chair of the dinner.

Lily Tomlin explained that a roast is "when friends get together to make fun of each other." And Jerry Brown and Yvonne Brathwaite Burke joined another two dozen local and state politicians who came looking for votes, and stayed to participate in the raucous evening of jokes about Andelson's one bedroom, two million dollar home in Bel Air. Andelson was praised for his leadership and financial generosity.

Lesbian-Straight Split . . . Round II?



By Lynne D. Shapiro

Two conferences held in New York this September marked a new phase of feminist activism, but also new problems for lesbian feminists.

The first was sponsored by Women Against Pornography, and its opening slide show displayed pictures (billboards, album and magazine covers) of women and lesbians being beaten and mutilated.

The Second Sex — Thirty Years Later was sponsored by the N.Y. University Institute for the Humanities, for the further development of feminist theory begun by Simone De Beauvoir's book (*The Second Sex*).

While the tone and subject of the conferences differed, each attracted over 800 women including many former straight activists and many women's movement newcomers. Both were also geared to establishment press coverage, and both seemed to keep lesbians and our issues invisible.

Namecalling

Though the conferences featured several lesbian workshops, some lesbians complained during open mike sessions that our issues were ignored by both lesbians and straight women in workshops on other issues. They said that not enough women were up-front about being lesbians, that the word lesbian was omitted from important conference publicity, and that some of the straight women made insensitive anti-lesbian remarks.

The situation was intensified at the WAP Conference mike session when one angry separatist called straight women, "cock-suckers." A handful of straight women responded with equally hostile anti-lesbian sentiments.

Split Over Porn Politics

At an Oct. 7 community meeting seven lesbians from WAP met with forty separatists and other community members to discuss lesbian participation in the pornography movement. Several separatist leaders said it was foolish to put themselves on the line for

straight women in the upcoming Times Square WAP march since straight women, who were more affected by pornography, continued to love and support men. They felt the feminist pornography movement is linked to conservatism and would therefore be used against lesbians and Third World women. Moreover, they accused the WAP lesbians of selling out because some straight WAP members have made public homophobic remarks, and because WAP is courting the establishment press.

The WAP lesbians countered that they felt a common bond with straight women on this issue because they had been adversely affected by pornography in their own lives. They said they didn't feel their working on this issue was detrimental to themselves as lesbians. They believe discussions of this issue offer a new way to talk about women's sexuality and to present the merits of a lesbian alternative.

The WAP women admitted regret about the homophobic remarks referred to, and explained their aim was to use mass media to do outreach.

The meeting ended with WAP women assuring the group that there would be a strong lesbian presence at the march, and, in mid-October, WAP issued a press release saying they fully supported lesbian rights and other progressive issues. However, many non-WAP lesbians have decided to do their own organizing and consciousness-raising around pornography, and have removed themselves from WAP.

Whether or not these two groups fully resolve their differences, key issues regarding lesbians working with straight feminists have been raised once again, this time by the return of many straight women to the women's movement, and because of feminists' attempts to do outreach through the establishment media.

The media presents a problem in that they are known to ignore or trivialize feminist issues when they are presented by known lesbians. How much compromising can we allow here in the name of outreach?

It is sometimes difficult for lesbians to accept that some of these straight women will never be lesbians. How do we relate to them, and how, too, do we support those women who want to come out?

In short, we need to persuade paranoid lesbians and straight women to accept the wisdom of Gloria Steinem's philosophy: "We must understand that what we are attempting is a revolution, not a public relations movement. As long as we fear the word lesbian we are curtailing our own strength and abandoning our sisters. As long as human sexuality is politically controlled, we will all be losing a basic human freedom. ■"

DONT Dykes Do It

By Lynne D. Shapiro

Out of 200,000 people at the N.Y. Anti-Nuke Festival on September 23rd, only 50 were gathered around the lavender Dykes Opposed to Nuclear Technology (DONT) banner. But when this small group began dancing to the music and providing a backup chorus to Holly Near, it made lesbians visible to many at the largest anti-nuke rally in history. With the exception of Pete Seeger, who added a chorus of "straights and gay together" to "*We Shall Overcome*," and Near, who reminded an uncomfortably silent audience about the October 14 National Gay March on Washington, there was little lesbian and gay visibility.

A spokeswoman for DONT later reported that attempts to get a speaker on the program had been unsuccessful, and that in general, grassroots anti-nuke groups had been much more sensitive to lesbian and gay concerns than the larger, more media conscious organizations like those sponsoring this rally.

One byproduct of DONT's anti-nuke efforts has been consciousness-raising about lesbianism among grass roots women in the anti-nuke movement.



DONT's current activities include preparing the defense of women arrested at Indian Point, organizing a conference for lesbians interested in the anti-nuke movement, and publication of a newsletter. Contact DONT c/o The Women's Center, 243 W. 20th St., NY, NY 10010. ■

Shortcurrents

FIRST LADY A LESBIAN?

"Hick, my dearest," began the letter from Eleanor Roosevelt to Lorena Hickock, a few days after she and Franklin D. moved into the White House. "I cannot go to bed tonight without a word to you. . . You have grown so much to be a part of my life that it is empty without you. . ." And the next day: "Hick, darling. Ah, how good it was to hear your voice. . ." And the next day: "Hick, darling. . . Oh, I want to put my arms around you. I ache to hold you close. . ." On one occasion according to a report in the New York Times, Miss Hickock wrote the First Lady, "Most clearly I remember your eyes, with a kind of reassuring smile in them and the feeling of that soft spot just northeast of the corner of your mouth against my lips. I wonder what we'll do when we meet — what we'll say." At the time of that exchange in 1933, Miss Hickock, a newspaperwoman, was 40 and Mrs. Roosevelt was 48. Their correspondence continued until Mrs. Roosevelt's death in 1962 and the letters are about to be published. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., said he has not seen the correspondence but said his mother wrote incessantly and with great ardor to both men and women. He called her style "very effusive, very loving." (— *L.A. Times*, 10-23-79)

NGTF IN TROUBLE

One of this country's most important gay organizations is in serious financial trouble. Lucia Valeska and Charles Brydon, recently elected Co-Executive Directors of The National Gay Task Force, have issued an urgent call for help. NGTF is asking all lesbians and gays to "sign up three \$20 members by January 1980" so they don't have to close their doors.

NGTF based their 1978 and 1979 budget upon overly optimistic revenue forecasts. These forecasts were based on 1977 revenues which soared in the wake of the Dade County Campaign. But revenue fell in '78 and '79, expenses ran into the red, and the '77 surplus has been used up.

The six year old NGTF has an outstanding track record. The organization pushed the American Psychiatric Association towards lifting homosexuality out of its deviant category, was an early leader in the fight against negative stereotypes of lesbians and gays on television, was largely responsible for the passage of the Lesbian Resolution at the IWY Conference, has met with federal officials and helped change immigration and prison policy regarding gays, was focal to strategy planning against the referendums, and has made national media recognize lesbians and gays as a population to be taken seriously.

Donations and memberships should be sent to NGTF at 80 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10011. ■

CHRISTIAN HONORED BY G.A.U.

Lesbian singer Meg Christian will be presented the Performing Arts Award at the 6th Annual Conference of the Gay Academic Union this month. Other presentations will include: The Humanitarian Award to Abigail (Dear Abby) Van Buren for gay advocacy in her columns, the Evelyn Hooker Research Award to Letitia A. Peplau, Susan Cochran, Karen Rook, and Christine Padesky for their study "Attachment & Autonomy in Lesbian Relationships", the Theory Development Award to therapist Vivian Cass for her formation of a gay identity theory, the Literature Award to Christopher Isherwood, and the Fine Arts Award to gay painter Paul Cadmus. Special Awards of recognition will be given to Barbara Gittings, editor of the American Library Association's Gay Bibliography, and to Governor Brown.

Eighty three workshops, among them "The Relationship of the Feminist & Gay Movements" (moderators, Arlie Scott, Charlotte Bunch, and Iris Mitgang), will take place on this weekend. (For registration and further information see ad on pg. 7).

BRITISH MEDS SUPPORT AID

A move to declare artificial insemination by donor (AID) for lesbians unethical has been defeated by the British Medical Association. The motion which would have mandated expulsion for any doctor allowing AID for a lesbian, was defeated by a majority of the BMA at its annual meeting in Liverpool.

GAY JEWS UNLEASH ISRAEL CONTROVERSY

Orthodox rabbis in Israel exerted pressure recently to force hotels and kibbutzim to turn away the 100 gay delegates to the first gay conference ever held in Israel. Citing Leviticus, the rabbis called homosexuality a violation of the law of God.

The conference was first booked at a kibbutz but the rabbis threatened to take away the kibbutz's dining room certification attesting that the food was kosher. The kibbutz capitulated to this economic pressure. The hotel where the gay delegates were to stay also cancelled their reservations after threats from the rabbis.

In addition, the Jewish National Fund tried to return the \$9,000 donation the gay Jews gave to plant trees in the Negev desert in memory of Jewish homosexuals.

S/M CHALLENGES ANTI-PORN

Samois, a San Francisco Bay Area lesbian-feminist sado/masochist support group, has called for dialogue with Women against Violence in Pornography and Media (WAVPM).

Samois asserts that "s/m is a form of sexual dissent. We oppose the patriarchal institution of non-imaginative, reproductive sex. The roles adopted during s/m are not governed by or correlated with gender or social sex-roles.

The s/m group charges that WAVPM equates all s/m with anti-woman violence and pornography.

WAVPM members Beth Goldbert and Bridget Wynne reply "our decision not to meet with [Samois] was due to the urgency we felt about our own work. We believe our priority as WAVPM members is putting an end to the woman hating propaganda that threatens us all."

Samois can be reached at P.O. Box 2364, Berkeley, CA 94702; WAVPM at c/o Berkeley Women's Center, 2112 Channing Way, Berkeley, CA 94707.

JOHN PAUL ZAPPED

As 150,000 gathered on October 7 to hear Pope John Paul II tell American women they did not have the right to control their own bodies, an airplane carrying the opposite message circled the crowd. The Abortion Rights Movement sponsored the craft which trailed a banner saying "Abortion Is A Woman's Right," for 4 hours. The funds necessary for this effort, \$720, were raised by groups around the country. A.R.M. activist Sandra Sullaway noted that John Paul "is the first Pope in 20 years, since Pius X, to speak out so much against abortion." It was, therefore, necessary to directly and visibly counter his sermon with the message that the majority of Americans believe abortion is a woman's right. Local A.R.M. Chapters, feminist and abortion rights activists also organized actions, including picketing and leafletting, to counter anti-abortion masses held in their communities.

PACHTNER CHALLENGES BRITT

Unlike perhaps any other city in the country, in San Francisco at election time every politician scrambles for the gay vote. The weeks preceding Nov. 6 were no exception as incumbent supervisor Harry Britt (successor to Harvey Milk) was challenged by feminist Kay Pachtner and liberal attorney Terrence Hallinan. Pachtner has the support of long time workers in the political process, Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon. Most gay male groups seem to be backing Britt. At press time, Britt led in the polls, followed by Hallinan who is appealing to the straight vote. Pachtner is third.

ST. LOUIS BAR FIREBOMBED

"Mor or Les," the only Lesbian bar in St. Louis has been completely destroyed by fire. The firebombing, which occurred one and one-half hours after the bar's closing, culminated six months of harassment from local neighbors. Vandalism, gunshots, bomb threats and revocation of the bar's liquor license preceded the incident. The bar's manager had moved out of an upstairs apartment in the building two days prior to the blast. ■

rites of Passage

Continued from page 22

The National Gay Task Force and the National Organization for Women protested. As a result, Commissioner Castillo of INS has formally reprimanded INS officials at Point Huron and ordered a formal investigation of the matter.

But, further action is necessary. It seems clear as a result of the PHS position, that no legal basis for the exclusion of gay aliens currently exists. This temporary INS policy, however, has the overall effect of putting gay visitors on "parole" rather than admitting them on an equal status with others.

Setback In Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland's gays were given yet another blow this summer when the Conservative government of Margaret Thatcher opted not to go ahead with promised reforms of laws that now make homosexuality illegal.

Secretary of State, Humphrey Atkins, has gone back on the commitment given by the former Labor administration which would have rescinded anti-homosexual laws as had been done in other provinces. ■

MORALITY — NO BETTER PLACE

Dear Sisters,

I'm writing in defense of the television series, *The Prisoner*. I am a prisoner in the California Institute for Women, and I was amazed when I heard a series was being telecast about prison life as it affects women in prison. Prisoners in the United States — over half a million men, women and children — are the forgotten minority; very few care about whether or not we exist, and most wish we didn't.

The first episode of *The Prisoner* left me awed by its insight into women's situations, feelings, motives, and problems in prison. I felt that to deal with the multitude of women's circumstances in prisons, and to do it so concisely and precisely in a 2 hour time limit, took superb writing and directing. I also feel that nearly every television show, movie, book, short story, etc., often develops its theme thru stereotypes — so that the parts are not as important as the whole image presented and the ideas this image conveys.

But I can tell you, honestly, that I know people like each one of the characters (real-life allows for more dimensions to their personalities, of course). They are in the general population and here in the Psychiatric Treatment Unit where there is one psychiatrist who is too busy to give therapy (which Franky Doyle obviously needs); there is one psychiatrist for 1,000 women and nothing but pills and "reports" are given. There are also many women in protective custody because of child-abuse cases — whether or not they committed the crimes. Some of these women are innocent. Many committed the "crimes," having few or no alternatives. *All are victims* — of economic/social conditions and prejudice — more so than men in prison. And women have fewer options when they return to society.

In her article, Cindy Frazier describes prisons as unusual settings for morality plays. It seems to me there couldn't be a better one. And any television series which concentrates this much publicity in a sympathetic/empathetic manner has my admiration and deep appreciation because, Lord knows, women in prison (and children) seem all but forgotten.

It would seem to me that all this demonstrating-energy would serve more positive purposes if it was used to help gay women in prison: whose release dates are taken from them when "caught" with another woman, who are placed in the Management Control Unit (solitary) for this, and who are otherwise punished for trying to reach out to someone in a gesture of love when all around them is brutality, ugliness, hostility and hopelessness. Legislatures are where energy should be concentrated. Sincerely and in Unity, Marianne L. Hricks.

PRISON STATUS

Dear Tide women,

As a former probation officer, I worked at California State for Girls (youth prison) and Terminal Island (federal prison) and know that very often lesbians have more status and privilege in prisons than others.

In prison, values opposite of those on the outside form the status strata. For instance, a black, butch heroin addict was considered "top mama," and the white feminine pot smoker was expected to do her bidding (heavier chores, steal cigarettes, etc.).

I'm not saying dykes have it easier because Goddess knows after a riot they (as the leaders) got longer solitary, I'm just saying butches are often the daddies, femmes and assorted others are given other important roles in the family, and the family tells you how to behave, what guards to put the touch on, who to watch out for and what chores to do. Prison guards mostly don't care what anyone does as long as everyone is "under control."

I do agree with the review that *The Prisoner* is the shits and perpetuates the myth that women in prison are somehow different from the rest of us. B.S. Luck, race and money are more often the only differences I saw.

Yours for the record, Jamie Howard.

DISCO NOT SO BAD

Dear Editors,

Instead of assuming that disco's appeal is limited to brainwashed zombies, it might prove useful to analyze its appeal — especially since it has such a large following among gays and Third World people. (See July/August issue). Are those of us who enjoy disco no more than mindless consumers who allow the music industry to dictate to us which records we buy, which buttons on the juke box we punch, and which songs we dance to in our bars?

Although the disco industry has become increasingly centralized as the disco market has expanded, it initially had a very disruptive effect upon the record industry. Prior to the disco explosion, radio play lists were created and hits were made with a minimum of audience participation. Disco hits are still largely determined by how many people get off their asses and out on the dance floor — clearly a more democratic approach.

This is not to say that the disco industry is without problems. The problem of artist anonymity is perhaps the most troubling. And there is plenty of terrible disco polluting the air waves. But as anyone who is familiar with rock, jazz, or women's music knows, disco has no monopoly on bad taste and mediocrity.

So why do people enjoy disco? Not unlike women's music, it offers the opportunity of escape, of transcending the mundane, the alienation most of us experience in the workplace.

Disco can be shallow and repetitive, but above all else, it's physical music. For lesbians who have been stigmatized on the basis of our sexual preference it promises sensual pleasure. Perhaps this is not the revolution, but it is subversive on some level. As Funkadelic puts it, "Something about the music, it got into my pants."

Name withheld. Ann Arbor, MI.

PEDERASTY — THEIR ISSUE

Dear Lesbian Tide Editors,

I just re-read Lynne Shapiro's article (*L.T.* Sept/Oct 79), "Women Loving Women Denounce Men 'Loving' Boys."

As a Canadian who has been embroiled in *The Body Politic* fiasco since the beginning, it was good to see that other lesbians took a stand against *TBP* and other pederast supporters. Although I was coerced into feeling the need to support *TBP* during the break-in on political grounds because of the suppressive actions of the cops, I just couldn't support the article itself nor the men who wrote it.

Many other Canadian lesbians were in the

same situation, once again realizing our isolation and need for autonomy from gay men and "their issues." Their fight is not our fight in so many ways and pederasts just prove the point.

Thanks again Lynne and *The Tide*. Towards a Dyke Nation.

Heather M. Gibson, Canada.

RADICALISM NOT FASCISM

Dear Editors,

Your review of *Sunday's Women* by Penny Grenoble contains one error of fact that I should like to clear up. Neither I nor my book, *Sunday's Women*, identify radical lesbian feminism with latter-day lesbian fascism.

Sincerely, Sasha Gregory Lewis.

COMEDY ALBUM UNIQUE

Dear Lesbian Tide,

I am writing because I was upset with Cheri Lesh's review of Robin Tyler's album, *Always a Bridesmaid, Never a Groom*. It seemed to me to be a shallow and inadequate attempt to review an important album.

The album is filled with risk taking; the whole album itself is a risk; it's the most out there lesbian album of any kind to come out of a women's culture. Tyler takes risks by talking about her personal life history, by coming out as a butch on the album, by dealing boldly with racism, Jewishness, and many other issues and oppressions.

Anyway, the review you published underestimated an album that is unique. As comedy, the album is unusually long and varied, mixing anecdotal humor with one liners and, most significantly, putting onto vinyl for the first time in history, a comic's personal life in chronological order. And as politics, the terrain Tyler covers is sweeping and bold; all together she covers almost every major political issue of our day, AND manages to make us laugh. It's unfortunate that *The Tide*, Tyler's home town lesbian magazine, chose to run such a pallid review about an extremely colorful and important album.

Best, Torie Osborn.

MORE ON ROLES

Dear Tide,

Any role associated behavior that is adopted in order to fulfill the expectations of others to conform to a sexual and social model not created in one's heart tyrannizes oneself and usually others. One ought to dress and behave in a way that makes one feel good.

It is absurd to say that, by being slender and wearing makeup, or finding women who do so attractive, one is buying a male identified sense of beauty. It is even more absurd to suggest that such people aren't real wimyn.

I do not impersonate a woman by wearing makeup or silk shirts; I am a woman. Not surprisingly, I am also a woman in jeans, boots, and a flannel shirt. It doesn't matter what I wear, and it's fun being free to dress according to my mood. One should not withhold one's respect for another woman because of her outward appearance. I have found that I can know and love women with all sorts of exteriors.

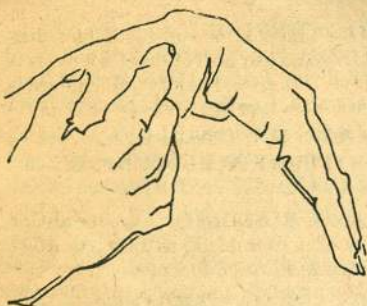
The most pernicious aspect of some sorts of role-playing is doubtless that the butch may feel encouraged to dominate and/or condescend to the femme. I am trying to avoid and work away from any such unhealthy exchange.

Thank you for a most enjoyable and informative magazine.

Elizabeth Ashmead.

Reviews

A Sexuality of Loving



By Claire Krulikowski

A Woman's Touch, edited by Cedar and Nelly. Womanshare Books. 1979. \$4.75.

Sensitivity, care, and imagination are key words describing both the process of compiling this anthology and the art of the writers involved.

Self-described as "an anthology of lesbian eroticism and sensuality for women only", *A Woman's Touch* gracefully sidesteps the base sex-as-sex-for-sex premise of other erotica anthologies, resting instead a wonderfelt gaze on the supple bending bodies, new found loves and science-fictional exploration of its women.

Key to the success of the book is the approach adopted by Cedar and Nelly. Begun as "a new turn-on while masturbating", the book soon evolved into a diverse selection of both sexual and metaphorical fantasies. Letting consciousness be their guide, the editors dealt continually with political and literary quandries in making policy and choosing selections. The resulting stories bear no resemblance to the crude porn typically found in such collections. Each author sketches well-drawn tales to embody their picture of woman's loves. There is desire beyond flesh.

There is weakness to the book. Not all of the stories work. "To Cope With The Ropes" follows three women working their way through personal and political fears of sado-masochism. Here there's no smooth transition between their personal experiences and political raps. And in "Going Down On The Farm" I sat incredulous, holding out a hope throughout the reading that there was some hidden metaphor I was missing and it really wasn't a well-learned chicken talking to Ellen throughout. The inclusion of "SM and Feminism" stands out as the only non-fiction piece. It analyzes the rejection of SM by feminists, attempting to explain the error of negative judgements. It stands out all the more since this non-fiction piece treats the subject more positively

and constructively than the fiction pieces centering around SM.

Flaws in writing account for much dissatisfaction with the book, key to this failing being a policy adopted by the editors not to rewrite content. If there were one quality I'd least expect to find in a collection of erotica, it would be literary standards and talent. Some selections chosen by the editors do, however, display a literary quality not generally found in this type of book.

Perhaps the book's chief weakness lies with Cedar and Nelly's quest to "inspire open dialogue and affirmation of our sexuality." That's a pretty tall order to fill on limited finances, and tucked between the covers of *A Woman's Touch* is a sampling of themes so diverse you're jarred by the change in pace and vision.

No matter what individual misgivings one may hold when finishing the book, the reader senses a presence absent from other such compilings: that is, woman vision. We are not left wanting — we are left wanting more. ■

Just Out!

Willie Tyson, by Willie Tyson. Lima Bean Records. \$6.95. Album.

The 1980 Lunar Calendar, edited by Nancy Passmore. Luna Press. \$7.95.

Eye To Eye: Portraits Of Lesbians, by Jeb. Glad Hag Books. \$8.95. Photographs.

Blue Collar Jobs For Women, by Muriel Lederer. E.P. Dutton. Career info.

Acceptance Is Love, by Jinx M. Miller. Guide for parents learning to accept their gay children.

Lesbian Peoples, by Monique Wittig and Sande Zeig. Avon. Alphabetical listing of woman related words.

Feminist Psychology: A Beginning Theory and Practice, by Holly Bradshaw Odell. Chrysalis. Thesis.

Give Me Your Good Ear, Maureen Brady. Spinsters Ink. Feminist novel revolving around mothers and daughters.

Write On, Woman!, edited by Lynne D. Shapiro. Second edition with up-to-date info on alternate presses, papers, magazines, journals. ■

The Meditations on a Human Sacrifice Basement

By Claire Krulikowski

The Basement by Kate Millett. Simon and Schuster. 1979. \$10.95.

I did not want to read this book. The cover, a vague grey outlined female figure cloaked in black, spoke the grim death detailed within. And death is something I'd rather not deal with. But Kate Millett has. From a single *Time* magazine article detailing Sylvia Likens' death by torture on October 26, 1965, a spectre spoke daily to Millett until, fourteen years later, we are challenged by this cover to explore what happened and uncover why.

You don't find "why" answers in court records or newsprint. There, you learn that a sixteen year old Indianapolis teenage girl died after two months of daily beatings, burnings, starvation and scaldings. She died in the basement of the home in which she and her sister had been left to board by their parents. She died at the hands of Gertrude Baniszewski, most of her seven children, and several neighborhood teenagers. She died, her last effort at release, the pounding of a coal shovel on the cement floor, ignored by neighbors, as her screams had for so long been ignored. She died with *I am a prostitute and proud*

of it etched on her abdomen.

The tougher questions rise out of kinship — Millett's instinct to scratch the surface, join, explore, probe, building layer upon layer in her delicate perception of brutality. She sets the stage early in her introductory Chapter One:

"You have been with me ever since, an incubus, a nightmare, my own nightmare, the nightmare of adolescence, of growing up a female child, of becoming a woman in a world set against us, a world we have lost and where we are everywhere reminded of our defeat. What you endured all emblematic of that. That you endured it at the hands of a woman, the hardest thing in the fable. . . ."

This book is a quest, it is a reliving — Gertrude, perhaps more than Sylvia, clutching at Millett. We feel the heat of summer and plod through the disorganized house with its heaps of laundry, the hot plate serving meager meals to the family who all share the same spoon. And, later, the same amusement.

It is not easy reading, not a pleasurable pastime. Thoroughly researched, brilliantly essayed both factually and fictionally, *The Basement* does justice to an unthinkable cruelty. ■

L.A. Calendar

WOMONSPACE DAYS NUMBERED

Womospace, a fixture in the Venice community since 1974, may close. In recent months interest in the Center has declined. Although special interest groups continue to meet there, little energy has been available for organization and administration of the building itself. Few women showed up last month to a publicized meeting to discuss Womospace changing their name to "Womospace-Lesbian Feminist Center."

Inflation and increased local demand for space has led the Church in Ocean Park, Womospace's landlord, to ask Womospace to vacate their current five room location and move into smaller, less expensive, office space within the main church building next door. Womospace would continue to have access to larger meeting rooms in the church building.

Womospace staffer Gail Suber noted the new location is in a mixed (male & female) environment, and said Womospace is considering the church's offer. Yet the real issue seems to be whether the westside women's community will support a women's space, regardless of its location.

THE CRIME NOBODY TALKS ABOUT

Ariadne, A Social Art Network, and the Gay Community Services Center are sponsoring an "Incest Awareness Project" — a national campaign to make the realities of sexual abuse of girls by fathers, grandfathers, stepfathers, or siblings a public issue.

Opening the year long series of activities is "Bedtime Stories: Women Speak Out About Incest," the first exhibition of its kind dealing publicly with incest. See Calendar Events for program information.

PHYSICIANS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Gay and lesbian physicians have formed "Southern California Physicians for Human Rights." Immediate attention will be given to an educational outreach program designed to inform non-gay physicians of the special problems of gay patients.

SCPHR will maintain a referral service for gay patients seeking medical care and also will provide a referral service for all physicians which delineates resolutions for problems affecting gay patients. Call SCPHR at (213) 851-3639.

EXOTIC NEWS AT THE WICCA

From faraway Nepal comes an array of baskets, trays, purses, clothing, flutes and much, much more. Proceeds from the sale of these wondrous things at the Wicca go to benefit Sojourn, shelter for battered women and their children.

CSW HONORS NEAR, OTHERS

The L.A. Christopher Street West Association has awarded singer Holly Near the Harvey Milk Memorial Award for her outstanding humanitarian contributions in 1979.

Parents and Friends of Gays received several awards for their high profile participation in this year's Gay Pride Day activities. Also honored was the Women's Contingent for

"Best Representation of the Theme." Jinx Beers, chair of the Women's Outreach Committee, accepted the award on behalf of the women who marched last June. Float awards were presented to several gay male bars.

CENTER STAGE

Lesbians and gay men are invited to get involved with Apollo's Mice, a new L.A. based lesbian & gay ensemble repertory theatre. Interested playwrights, directors, actors, technicians, etc., call Ron Hitchcock at 664-1506.

EVENTS

INCEST SHOW: Closing performance will be held on Thursday 11-15 at the Women's Building from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Call 221-6161.

LESBIAN MASQUERADE: a slide show depicting 19th Century women living in couples passing as husband and wife, will be shown Nov. 24. Church in Ocean Park, 235 Hill St., Santa Monica. Show is sponsored by San Francisco Lesbian Herstory Group.

WOMAN'S CONCERT: on Friday, Nov. 9 at 8 p.m. the Woman's Building will be the scene of a L.A. Premiere performance of the IZQUIERDA ENSEMBLE. Their skillful interweaving of voices with piano, guitar, flute and percussion, creates a very moving and involving performance. Tickets \$4 at door.

BROWN BAG READERS THEATRE: A Sonoma County theatre group composed of 7 lesbian alcoholics and co-alcoholics, will be appearing at the L.A. Woman's Building on Sat. Nov. 10, 8 p.m. Their message about women & alcohol is delivered in funny one liners, short skits, and serious poems. \$3 donation.

ABORTION RIGHTS MOVEMENT: at Feminist Women's Health Center, 6411 Hollywood Blvd. For more details call 469-4844.

GAY AND LESBIAN HOTLINE: needs your volunteer help, call Lisa Erwin 464-7400.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF GAYS: Hotline Numbers: Long Beach 427-4347, Valley 343-4275, Orange County (714) 964-4392, Hollywood 851-6949, L.A. 472-8952.

I.M.R.U. GAY RADIO: KPFK 90.7 FM, every third and fourth Sunday of the month at 8:30 p.m.

LESBIAN RAP: every Sunday 8:00 p.m. Women's Center, Cal State Northridge, 9428 Etiwanda. Call Women's Center 855-2780, or Marybeth 838-3469.

WOMAN WRITERS: The Women's Building has open mike readings for women to read their works, first Sunday of every month, 7:00 p.m. Call 221-6161.

LESBIAN RAP: every Monday at Women's Resource Center, Cal State L.A., 11:30 to 1:00 p.m.

ALTERNATIVE TO AA: not for those who need detoxification or therapy. A creative dialogue, feminist support on the part alcohol plays in our lives, open to all women, facilitated by Betty Shoemaker. At Womospace, 237 Hill St., Santa Monica, every Monday at 7:00 p.m. Call 484-9988.

LESBIAN RAP: walk in rap groups every Tuesday and Thursday at GCSC Women's Resource 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. Call 464-7400.

SELF-HELP CLINIC: first Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at Feminist Woman's Health Center located at 6411 Hollywood Blvd. Call 469-4844.

ACLU GAY RIGHTS CHAPTER: General Meeting first Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. 5670 Wilshire Blvd., 3rd floor. Call 466-6739.

ALCOHOL AWARENESS: open group every Wednesday 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., 1147 So. Alvarado, L.A. Call 869-4730.

"STAR SHADOWS": A women's spirituality group meets every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at 1356 No. Benton Way, Echo Park area. Call 484-9988.

GAY TEACHERS OF L.A.: presents Leslie Powell speaking on "Gay women in and out of the closet" on Friday 11-16 at 8:00 p.m. Silverlake area. Call 461-5042, or 663-7610.

W.A.V.A.W.: L.A. Chapter meeting will be Sat., 11-13 from 9:00 to 12:00 p.m. in Santa Monica. Call Jeni 828-2355, all women invited.

WOMAN'S BUILDING: open house on Saturday 12-1 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. 1727 No. Spring St., L.A. Call 221-6161.

"MIND OVER MATTER": Gallery opening at the Woman's Building on Saturday 12-8, 2nd floor from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Call 221-6161.

GALA CRAFT FAIR: at the Woman's Building on 12-8 & 12-9 Saturday and Sunday 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. Call 221-6161.

CONCERT AND DANCE: at the Woman's Building, Saturday 11-17, 8:00 p.m. Call 798-5448.

Classified Ads

RATES: \$5 per inch, \$10 minimum for Business, Conferences & Professional Services ads. \$5 minimum for Personal ads. 1 inch = 7 lines, 44 spaces per line.

Personal: individual solicitations, pen pals, requests, etc.

Business: where product or service is sold or job is offered.

Conferences: events, festivals, etc., which charge registration.

Professional Services: private business or practice.

PERSONAL

Writing book on alternative printing, publishing and distributing. WANTED: LESBIAN INPUT to compile complete directory of alternative print shops and book distributors. Please send names and addresses to Jim Dandy, 1880 City View, Eugene, OR 97405. All input much appreciated.

Four women living in Ocean Park seek fifth feminist vegetarian to share old two story house (garden & hot tub). \$225 includes util. Call (213) 399-2164.

We need other lesbians to join our established rural communes. Here women and men (primarily hetero) live and work in a gentle culture dedicated to equality, non-sexism, and the good life. Government is participative; income is shared. A wide tolerance of diversity allows us to be open. We need and want the support of women who share our lesbian & feminist perspective. Write: Margaret, Federation of Egalitarian Communities, L-2, Twin Oaks Community, Louisa, VA 23093.

BUSINESS

"JUDY CHICAGO POSTER", beautiful, significant, commissioned for National Women's Political Caucus 4th Biennial Convention. Limited edition serigraph: \$250 plus \$5 p/h. Poster: \$5 plus \$1.50 p/h. Send to NWPC Poster, 1411 K St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

AMAZON ASTROLOGY: professional horoscope analysis by a lesbian feminist. The cost is \$35, or \$30 if you mention *The Lesbian Tide*. Your day, month, year, time & place of birth are needed. Kathy Lilith, PO Box 1517, Camp Verde, AZ 86322.

REVOLUTIONARY SPONGE TAMPON, PLUS! The most comfortable, sanitary, super absorbent, reusable absorber. S/M/L. Send \$2, plus 50¢ handl. to: Nature's Answer, PO Box 4477, Las Vegas, NV 89106.

THIS RIVER OF WOMEN, a New York theatre company, which just completed a production of Susan Griffin's *Voices*, is looking for plays which reveal the realities of our lives as women as we perceive them. Send to: TROW, % Julie Dominian, 253 Quail St., #3, Albany, NY 12203.

JOB: Warm & enthusiastic woman needed for front office work in chiropractic clinic. Part time hours initially. Excellent benefits & working conditions. Will train. Contact (213) 799-3824.

DRAGONPOOL: Clay ritual objects & lavender utilitarian stoneware. Massage, Tarot readings, classes, interpretations. Herbal & psychic skills seminars for city lesbians. Billie Potts, PO Box 151, Mt. Marion, NY 12456. By appointment, write or call (914) 246-8081.

HEALING & MAJIKAL HERBS of special interest to wimmin. Oils, tinctures, comfrey ointment, seasonally available wild & organically grown herbs. New Tarot handbook \$3.50 postpaid. We are three women (two dragons and one elf) trying to foster alternate and personal health care. We were part of the Womancraft '76 & Womancraft Again collectives which organized two conferences on alternate healing. Prompt nationwide mail order service. Our 2nd year catalog available free. Send SASE to Elf & Dragons, P.O. Box 609T, Woodstock, NY 12498.

MENSTRUAL SPONGES: Use soft, unbleached sponges to catch your bloods. Information and instructions included. \$1.50 postpaid to Wimmin Take Back Control, P.O. Box 30063, New Orleans, LA 70190.

JOB: part time Administrative Assistant wanted to work for *The Lesbian Tide*. Must have car, be able to type, spell, handle light bookkeeping, and be well organized. \$550 mo. Call 839-7254.

JOB: Secretary — Motion Picture Studio, excellent salary & benefits. Must have professional appearance, be well organized and intelligent. Male or Female. Call Tide Publications for referral 839-7254.

LAYOUT ARTISTS: wanted work with the *Lesbian Tide* on Production Day. We offer good company, hot lunch and \$10 for the day. We need your skills. Please call (213) 839-7254.

DID YOU MISS SOME HERSTORY? Now you can own 5 years of it for only \$13. Get 23 issues of *The Lesbian Tide* (1975-1979) for \$13. A very special gift for friend or lover. Order now from Tide Publications, 8706 Cadillac Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90034.

THE NEW ORLEANS Wimmin's Graphics Collective (formerly PAS Studio) presents Wimmin's Shirt Tales. Amelia Earhart, Rosa Parks, Amazon Quarterly, Dykes on Bikes, & Women Against Violence Against Women are only a few of the quality hand silk-screened t-shirts we offer. Send 15¢ in coins or stamps to receive our complete catalogue. Wholesale & custom printing rates available. NOWGC Dept. LT, 1725 Carondelet St., New Orleans, LA 70130.

Books

SISTERS UNITED: a new religious Lesbian/Feminist magazine for consciousness raising and thought provoking reading. Revealed for the first time — the true authentic explanation for Lesbianism. Read about it and the future involvement of the Lesbian race by writing for your FREE sample copy to — Sisters United, 118 W. Sparks St., Galena, KS 66739.

FINE GIFT FOR THE ROMANTIC: Newly published anthology of lesbian poetry by Karen Williams, enterprising poet & artist. Send \$3, plus 50¢ for post. & handl. to: Carol Kazimir, 58 Plainfield Rd., Albertson, N.Y. 11507.

NEW LESBIAN LOVE STORY: by a lesbian, for lesbians. Send \$6 to Donna Camille, P.O. Box 12171, El Cajon, CA 92022.

LESBIAN FEMINIST S & M support group has published 45 pg. booklet including articles on theory & politics, personal experience, reading list. \$3, plain wrapper. Samoie #3, P.O. Box 2364, Berkeley, CA 94702. Free hanky color code card for lesbians included.

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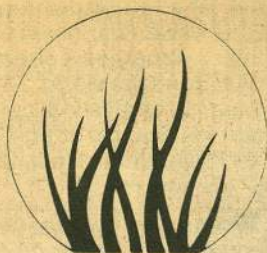
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